IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims is set forth below. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (Previously Presented), (Cancelled), or (New).

Please add new claims 87-107.

59. (Previously Presented) A method for communicating via a set of frequency bands, comprising:

obtaining a first electrical signal that encodes a first information stream, wherein:

the energy of said first electrical signal is concentrated within a plurality of frequency bands that comprises substantially non-overlapping frequency bands; and

said first information stream can be recovered from any subset of said plurality of frequency bands that is one less, in number, than said plurality of frequency bands,

transmitting said first electrical signal onto a conductive path;

receiving energy within a first frequency band from said conductive path, wherein:

a highest frequency of said first frequency band is lower than a lowest frequency of said plurality of frequency bands;

a lowest frequency of said first frequency band is higher than a highest frequency used in a second frequency band,

at least a portion of said first electrical signal is transmitted simultaneously with receiving said energy within said first frequency band; and

transmitting and receiving voiceband signals within said second frequency band onto said conductive path,

wherein at least part of said transmitting and receiving of voiceband signals is conducted simultaneously with said transmitting of said first electrical signal.

60 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59, further comprising:

encoding a second information stream as a second electrical signal, wherein the energy of said second electrical signal is concentrated within said first frequency band; and

transmitting said second electrical signal onto said conductive path.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 80, further comprising receiving said first electrical signal at said third point on said conductive path, wherein the energy of said first electrical signal is concentrated within said plurality of frequency bands.

62. (Cancelled)

63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 61, further comprising sustaining the connection of an ordinary telephone device to a fourth point on said conductive path while providing a relatively high impedance to signals on said path at frequencies above the voiceband, wherein at least part of said sustaining is conducted simultaneously with said transmitting of said first electrical signal and said second electrical signal, said fourth point being different than said first, second, and third points.

64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 63, wherein said third, and said fourth points are implemented with RJ-11 telephone jacks connected to said conductive path.

65. (Cancelled)

66. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59, wherein said frequency bands are of substantially equal width.

67. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59, wherein said first information stream is a stream of video.

68. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59, wherein said first information stream is a digital stream that represents video information.

69. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 60, wherein said second information stream represents a control signal that has an influence on the content of said first information stream.

70. (Cancelled)

71. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59, wherein said first frequency band is narrower than the difference between a highest frequency in said plurality of frequency bands and a lowest frequency in said plurality of frequency bands.

72. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 60, wherein said second information stream is transmitted as time-varying infrared light patterns.

Claims 73-76 cancelled

77. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 69, wherein said second information stream is transmitted as time-varying infrared light patterns.

78. (Cancelled)

79. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59, wherein the first electrical signal is transmitted onto the conductive path at a first point on the conductive path,

wherein energy within a first frequency band is received at the first point on the conductive path, and

wherein said voiceband signals are transmitted and received at a second point on the conductive path.

80. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 79, further comprising:

encoding a second information stream as a second electrical signal, wherein the energy of the second electrical signal is concentrated within the first frequency band; and

transmitting the second electrical signal at a third point onto the conductive path, the third point being different than the first point on the conductive path.

81. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59, wherein transmitting said first electrical signal onto the conductive path presents a high impedance to energy on said path at voiceband frequencies.

82. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 66, further including a gap band extending between a highest frequency of a first one of said plurality of frequency bands and a lowest frequency of a second one of said plurality of frequency bands, wherein the highest frequency of said first one of said plurality of frequency bands is lower than the lowest frequency of said second one of said plurality of frequency bands.

83. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 82, wherein noise is induced on said conductive path within said gap band, where said noise comes from a source that is not connected to said conductive path.

84. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 83, wherein the amplitude of the noise induced within said gap band is higher than an amplitude of noise in a first band that would prevent significant recovery of information from said first band, said first band corresponding to said first one of said plurality of frequency bands.

85. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59, further including:

recovering said first information stream from the first electrical signal; and

propagation of noise from a source other than said first electrical signal along said conductive path within at least one of said plurality of frequency bands;

wherein in response to the noise said first information stream is recovered without said one of said plurality of frequency bands.

86. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59, further including:

recovering said first information stream from said first electrical signal; and

propagation of noise along said conductive path, a power spectrum of said noise overlapping each frequency band of said plurality of frequency bands;

wherein said first information stream is recovered without a frequency band in said plurality of frequency bands that has the smallest respective signal to noise ratio.

87. (New) A method for communicating via a set of frequency bands, comprising:

obtaining a first electrical signal from a first information stream, wherein:

the energy of said first electrical signal is concentrated within a plurality of substantially non-overlapping frequency bands; and

said first information stream can be recreated from any subset of said first plurality of frequency bands that is one less, in number, than said first plurality of frequency bands.

applying said first electrical signal on a conductive path;

receiving energy within a first frequency band on said conductive path, wherein:

a highest frequency of said first frequency band is lower than a lowest frequency of said plurality of frequency bands;

a lowest frequency of said frequency band is higher than a highest frequency used in a second frequency band,

at least a portion of said first electrical signal is conducted simultaneously with said energy within said first frequency band; and

transmitting and receiving voiceband signals within said second frequency band on said conductive path,

wherein at least part of said transmitting and receiving of voiceband signals is conducted simultaneously with said applying of said first electrical signal.

88. (New) The method of claim 87, further comprising:

expressing a second information stream as a second electrical signal, wherein the energy of said second electrical signal is concentrated within said first frequency band; and

applying said second electrical signal on said conductive path.

89. (New) The method of claim 101, further comprising receiving said first electrical signal at said third point on said conductive path, wherein the energy of said first electrical signal is concentrated within said plurality of substantially non-overlapping frequency bands.

90 (New) The method of claim 89, further comprising sustaining the connection of an ordinary telephone device to a fourth point on said conductive path while providing a relatively high impedance to signals on said path at frequencies above the voiceband, wherein at least part of said sustaining is conducted simultaneously with said applying of said first electrical signal and said second electrical signal, said fourth point being different than said first, second, and third points of connection.

91. (New) The method of claim 90, wherein said third, and said fourth points of connection correspond to RJ-11 telephone jacks connected to said conductive path.

92 (New) The method of claim 87, wherein each frequency band in said plurality of substantially non-overlapping frequency bands are of substantially equal width.

93. (New) The method of claim 87, wherein said first information stream is a stream of video.

94. (New) The method of claim 87, wherein said first information stream is a digital stream that represents video information.

95. (New) The method of claim 88, wherein said second information stream represents a control signal that has an influence on the content of said first information stream.

96. (New) The method of claim 87, wherein said first frequency band is narrower than the difference between the highest frequency covered by said plurality of substantially non-overlapping frequency bands and the lowest frequency covered by said plurality of substantially non-overlapping frequency bands.

97. (New) The method of claim 88, wherein said second information stream is expressed as time-varying infrared light patterns.

98. (New) The method of claim 95, wherein said second information stream is expressed as time-varying infrared light patterns.

99. (New) The method of claim 93, wherein said second information stream represents a control signal that has an influence on the content of said first information stream.

100. (New) The method of claim 87, wherein applying the first electrical signal on the conductive path applies the first electrical signal at a first point on the conductive path,

wherein receiving energy within a first frequency band on the conductive path receives energy at the first point on the conductive path, and

wherein transmitting and receiving voiceband signals on the conductive path transmits and receives voiceband signals at a second point on the conductive path.

101. (New) The method of claim 100, further comprising:

expressing a second information stream as a second electrical signal, wherein the energy of the second electrical signal is concentrated within the first frequency band; and

applying the second electrical signal at a third point on the conductive path, the third point being different than the first point on the conductive path.

102. (New) The method of claim 87, wherein applying said first electrical signal on the conductive path applies said first electrical signal while providing a relatively high impedance to energy on said path at voiceband frequencies.

103. (New) The method of claim 92, further including a gap band extending between a highest frequency of a first one of said plurality of frequency bands and a lowest frequency of a second one of said plurality of frequency bands, wherein the highest frequency of said first one of said plurality of frequency bands is a lower frequency than the lowest frequency of said second one of said plurality of frequency bands.

104 (New) The method of claim 103, wherein at least some noise energy is propagated along said conductive path within said gap band, said at least some noise energy created by a source that is not connected to said conductive path.

105. (New) The method of claim 104, wherein said gap band includes at least some noise energy, propagated along said conductive path, sufficient to degrade the first information stream.

106 (New) The method of claim 87, further including:

recreating said first information stream based on the energy received by said receiver; and

propagating at least some noise energy from a source other than said first electrical signal along said conductive path within at least one of said plurality of substantially non-overlapping frequency bands;

wherein in response to the at least some noise energy said first information stream is recreated without the at least one of said plurality of substantially non-overlapping frequency bands.

107. (New) The method of claim 87, further including:

recreating said first information stream from the energy received by said receiver; and

propagating at least some noise energy along said conductive path within each of said plurality of substantially non-overlapping frequency bands;

wherein said first information stream is recreated without a frequency band in said plurality of substantially non-overlapping frequency bands having the most noise energy.